

Pulse

NEWSLETTER



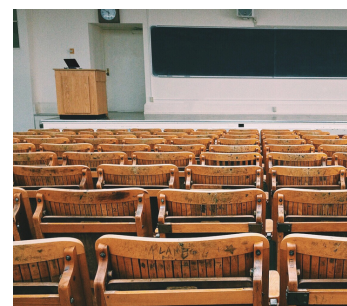
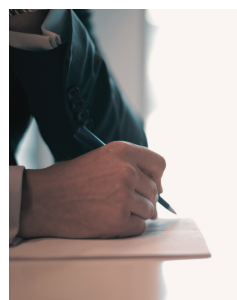
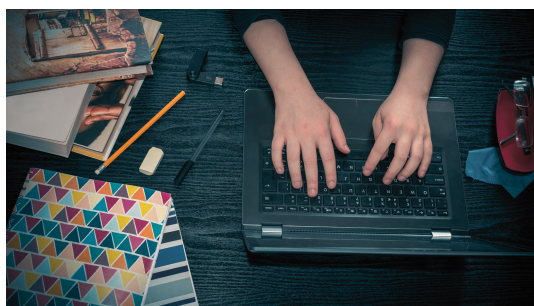
THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



**MORE THAN A
NEWSLETTER**

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WHO ARE WE?

Our Vision

Pulse is a student-led and faculty-supervised newsletter of the Department of English at the the College of Art in Imam Abdulrahman bin Faisal University. We aim to give updates of the latest developments and news of the Department of English and to provide an outlet for all department members to publish and share their original contributions.

Our Mission

Pulse is a biannual publication featuring faculty and students' news and original writing to connect the department members together. It provides opportunities for students to practice their writing, editing and content creation skills.

Submissions are sent to
newsletteriau20@gmail.com



CONTACT



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[@NewsletterIAU](https://twitter.com/NewsletterIAU)

OUR TEAM

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WELCOME

Welcome to the first issue of Pulse newsletter in which you will find a variety of articles and literary works written by students as well as faculty members.

The decision was taken to launch this newsletter, entitled Pulse and was approved by the English Department Board in its fifth meeting on 13/12/2020 as part of the Department's good practice. The Department has been given unconditional accreditation to acknowledge its practices and we believe that this newsletter will foster as well as document aspects of these good practices. The intention was that Pulse should embrace different types of writings that are usually executed and posted independently, and develop into a more serious and substantial publication.

We are pleased to present to you a platform which aims at stimulating critical thinking and creative writings. Many thanks to the editors for this initiative. We hope that it attracts talents and provides food for thought.

DR. AREEJ ALBAWARDI

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
ENGLISH

Areej Albawardi

Editors' Notes



WHAT IS IN A WORD?

DR. IMAN A. ALMULLA
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What is in a word? A word is a voice, a power and an idea. One idea, in particular, came up to me and to my dear colleague, Dr. Aishah Al-Reshoud, at the same time: uncoordinated and unplanned. Both of us felt that our beloved department, with its dedicated staff and amazing students, needs to be represented, heard and celebrated.

Thus, the idea of establishing a department newsletter was born. After months of recruitment, creative writing, graphic design, editing and supervision by a devoted team that we have had the pleasure to work with, we are proud to present to you, our dear reader, the first issue of our newsletter. Our intention is to make it a space for our department members to exchange ideas and let their voices be heard.

We truly wish that it will give the staff and the students alike the chance to feel empowered and have their achievements acknowledged. With that, I leave you, our dear reader, to enjoy our first issue and we are looking forward to many more.

DO THE HUMANITIES STILL MATTER?

DR. AISHAH E. ALRESHOUD
CO-EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Can you imagine a world without History or Literature? I know I cannot. Not so recently, we started to hear about the risks that the humanities face and their predicted decline. This has led to a drop in enrollments across humanities and liberal arts departments around the world, but not in our department. The marginalization of the humanities comes as a result of not understanding their true essence. STEM majors are important and so are the humanities.

**"Wherever they go,
our graduates
always make a
difference"**

As someone who teaches English Literature, I always like to hear from my students about what motivated them to join the English department. A brilliant answer that I still remember today was by a student who explained, "I majored in this field because I chose the freedom of mind". This freedom of mind comes with honing students' critical, creative and analytical skills. That is why we often like to remind our students that in ten years from now, it does not matter if they still can recall the name of a certain author and what books they have written. What matters is that they can apply the skills they have acquired while studying such texts to whatever new situations they might face in life.

In Saudi Arabia, we are privileged to have our 2030 Vision which makes preserving our unique history, culture, and literature a priority. The establishment of the Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission and the Theater and Performing Arts Commission by the Ministry of Culture in 2020 is a clear acknowledgment of the importance of the humanities. Our visionary leaders appreciate that the humanities are essential to making vibrant citizens who treasure their heritage, appreciate their present and contribute to the future of their country, a goal that is much greater than just preparing students to fill certain jobs.



Al-Kaisariah, Al-Ahsa, Eastern Province (Photo by: Mohammed Al-Fihaid)

Our alumni prove that their study at the Department of English has given them a solid foundation for diverse opportunities. For example, some of our graduates, being equipped with excellent written and verbal skills that enable them to develop and present logical and persuasive arguments, pursue careers in Law. Others choose to work in education, corporate, or content creation, among many other fields. The options are unlimited and wherever they go, our graduates always make a difference.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ONFWAN PODCAST

We are excited to announce that we have launched a new audio platform for all University students, Onfwan! Here we stop for a moment, look around and explore significant matters that affect our daily lives, especially the matters that intrigue University students the most.

In Onfwan, our objective is to help create connections between the students, the university and the society by discussing various topics, be it cultural, social or academic. We also aim to raise the voices of University students by providing them with a platform which asks questions on their behalf, and searches for the answers.

Our podcast is brought to you with the collective help of students from the English Department and the Communication and Information Technology Department. We have started publishing our Arabic episodes, but don't fret! An English series is in the works and will be published very soon. In the meantime, you can find us on Google and Apple Podcasts and our account on Twitter @On_f_wan.



A TRUE INSPIRATION

Raneem Al Faraidy, a student at the English Department, who was diagnosed with mild cerebral palsy as a child, has won the Award of Challenge by Imam Abdulrahman University. In the honoring ceremony, she stated enthusiastically "my early awareness of my disability enabled me to challenge myself, Al Hamdulillah". Raneem is a source of inspiration to many as she is the first Saudi woman to participate in bike racing in promotion of public awareness of Parasports (sports played by people with a disability). In addition, as passionate, energetic, and positive as she is, Raneem enjoys running marathons, biking, camping and sports in general. She is a member of the Special Needs National Camp.



INTERNATIONAL PEPSICO BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Over the past year and a half, Tamakani has partnered with Injaz Saudi Arabia to hold a competition that gives Saudi female university students experience in the entrepreneurial world and the opportunity to launch their own start-up. Out of the six teams that will compete against each other, only three will win the grant prizes. The three teams will be granted prize money, 10000 USD, 4000 USD, and 2000 USD respectively, as well as mentorship with Injaz Al Arab to bring their business to life.

In this competition, two students of the Department of English Program, Aiysha Katakata and Daniah Ghaleb Albadrani won second place with their concept of creating water bottles specially for children which includes a coding learning game. In other words, they focus on enriching the physical and mental health of children.

“

I decided to
follow my
dreams before
they escape me

- RANEEM AL FARAIDY

STUDENT, SPORTS CHAMPION

AWARD-WINNING PROJECTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STUDENTS

1st Place Winner for the *College of Arts Graduation Project Award*:

“The Cultural Projections of
Magical Realism in the Saudi
Novel: The novel of Ibraheem
Abbas Houjan”

by Sara Aldosari & Rehab
Algnami, Supervised by Dr. Laila
Alogaily

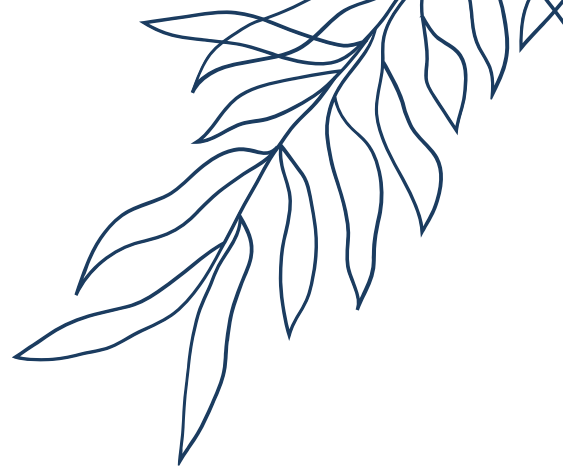


3rd Place Winner:

“Aversion and Estrangement in
Bidoon Literature”

by Jumana Alenezi,
Supervised by Dr. Raya
AlRaddadi

Department Highlights



ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Department of English language cooperated with the Academic Guidance Office in organizing the *Open House Day* in September 2020. The program provided a description of the English Language program, its mission, objectives, study plan, courses, and job opportunities. Led by *Dr. Nesreen Nawwab*, 21 students worked on preparing, organizing and presenting. The audience included 208 students from different levels. The event was held virtually, through Zoom.

PRINCIPAL & SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

It is an honor to offer the sincerest congratulations to *Dr. Areej Al Bawardi*, *Dr. Naimah Al-Ghamdi*, *Dr. Laila Alogaily*, and *Dr. Muneerah Al Mahasheer* for achieving the British Fellowship in Higher Education. The fellowship is awarded to faculty members who demonstrate a personal and institutional commitment to professionalism in learning and teaching in higher education.



ORGANIZING HEROES

The Department of English language cooperated with the Academic Guidance Office in organizing the movement of students during the midterm exam periods in 2020, taking in consideration the COVID-19 health precautions for three consecutive weeks. Six students, or let us call them heroes, had volunteered to help. Their help has been acknowledged by the Dean of the college, the Head of the English department, and the Academic Guidance Office.

DISCOURSE SOCIETY

The Department of English official debate club held its first informal debate on Nov 11, 2020 to discuss. Students debated whether or not the new generation is easily offended.



The Department of English Clubs & Activities

Whatever your interest is, you will sure find like-minded people and plenty of activities to do!



- Book club @bookclub_iau
- Onfwan podcast @on_f_wan
- Turjman Club @TurjumanIAU
- Wellbeing Team @wellbeing_iau
- Pulse Newsletter @newsletterIAU
- Discourse Society





THE WELLBEING HOUR

The Wellbeing Hour is a safe space where students can come together and exchange support and ideas. When they feel stressed, lost or overwhelmed from a certain course, homework or project, students can always join the Wellbeing Hour to seek help and comfort. This initiative represents the department attention to students' mental health and wellbeing. At the Wellbeing Hour, students can meet once a week for an hour. All are welcome and students have the choice to be completely anonymous while attending the meetings. The Wellbeing Hour team will help other students by giving advice, sharing experiences, or simply listen to other students.

Our goal is to create a safe place for all.





PEER TEACHING

The Peer teaching program helps students with their courses by giving them extra classes and tutoring services.

SANED

Training and volunteering in schools.

WRITING LAB

The writing lab program helps students strengthen their English writing skills.

Students meet at specific intervals throughout the semester with the Department instructors to receive feedback and guidance with their writing (assignment, research, personal writing).

AL SIRAT

/As-Sirāt/ Arabic: The course or direction in which a person or a thing is moving.

MIZNA ALBAZIE

At the beginning of the 80s, news spread that a flood would hit the Southwest part of Saudi Arabia. People who lived there were concerned about the safety of their families. All they could think about was how to save their lives. Should they stay home or go somewhere else? They finally decided that the only way to get out of this predicament was to take shelter on a concrete bridge. We often have many options before making a choice, however, once a choice is made is too late to change the consequences. The consequences of their choice were a nightmare. The deluge swept away and killed every person who was standing on the bridge. That moment when they trusted the concrete bridge to survive, they were not aware that they were choosing death over life.



The possibility of survival was too close, but their visibility was too far. Why does a human blindly follow the masses without having any second thoughts? Could you imagine how many paths you follow without questioning your destination? How many convictions do you have, but none of them is truly yours?



"Could you imagine how many paths you follow without questioning your destination?"



Dammam, Saudi Arabia



Corniche, Al-Khobar (Twitter)

WINTER IN SAUDI ARABIA

SARA ALFALEH

Since childhood, winter has always been my favorite season. It is the scent of burnt wood that sends us in joyful special moments. To me, winter means lots of gatherings, which obviously comes with a lot of warm delicious food. Winter is the smell of butter, wheat, and dates. The combination of these three ingredients that could be used differently across the kingdom, but at the end they always result in a dreamy and fulfilling meal. I remember going to Azizyah beach with my family every Friday, the very same trip would completely change when it is winter. How the grilled corn used to bring warmth to our little hands. These memories defined winter not only to me, but all of us. Even when I grew up, winter remained full of activities and emotions. What changed is that, I now enjoy more activities such as going to the desert with my father and drinking tea made on coals. Today, we can see small Saudi businesses paying more attention to create a perfect winter experience whether they were authentic small restaurants or cafes.



Snow falls in NEOM on January 10, 2020. (Twitter)

Those ambitious entrepreneurs dedicate a huge amount of energy to create a memorable winter experience to customers. Some would release a special treat, others would go big and launch a new temporary outdoor location. Some people would argue that this concept is coming from the influence of the western culture, but if we look closely, we -Saudis- have always been fond of the winter season. It is definitely not a mere new trend. Camping, outdoor settings, gatherings, and most importantly, the warm special foods have all been part of our culture for ages. It is just the very creative way Saudi businesses are adapting and innovating. This divine combination of the old traditional winter habits with the modern trendy ideas absolutely makes the unforgettable Saudi winter experience.

“WHEN I WAS GROWING UP,
WINTER REMAINED FULL OF
ACTIVITIES AND EMOTIONS”



Ask a Professor

We gave our students a chance to interview some of their professors in an informal setting to ask for their advice and learn from their experience.

**You can also listen to the following interviews on Onfwan Podcast.*

Ask a Professor

DR.AREEJ ALBAWARDI

What are three things you wish your students would understand/ do?

I like my students to know that their years at the university are the most enjoyable moments in their lives. I want them to enjoy every bit of it; enjoy learning, researching, making new friends, and serving society and our country. I also want them to understand that they are blessed with technology. Make good use of it, get good resources, and read more.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Monitoring the growth of my students intellectually, academically, and socially.

If you could go back in time, what are some of the things you wish you had done as a student?

Relate my studies and research to local issues and work more on interdisciplinary fields in which the English department students work with students from other departments.

Could you share with us any experience that you had and would consider as life-changing?

My Ph.D. journey was a life-changing experience. I realized how strong Saudi women are and how they can overcome any challenges to reach their goals. Several Saudi women, including myself, were doing their Ph.D. abroad with kids and families and managed to take care of different aspects of their lives.

I will always be grateful to our Country and families. May Allah bless and protect Saudi Arabia.

"Enjoy learning"



Ask a Professor

DR.MAY ALSAHEB

What are three things you wish your students would understand/ do?

First of all, I would like them to know that our follow-up is not for mere annoyance. It is for their benefit. We have a schedule in our minds as instructors, and we would like our students to meet that schedule, most of the time. Secondly, Sometimes when we are somehow harsh on them in regards to evaluation or marking, it doesn't benefit us as instructors. Actually, it's zero benefits for us, but it returns to benefit you. When we were students we didn't understand that until we graduated. We understood that, and we appreciated instructors when they were very much meticulous about their evaluation. It taught us a lot. It gave us the full enthusiasm to do better. The third thing I would say is to understand that we instructors are facilitators, we try to help you gain the information, not feed you the information. The information, everything nowadays is available on Google, with a click of a button, so we try to incorporate active learning and this is very much a new way of learning, because the information is already there. I am not a messenger of the subject. I will try to facilitate information for you to be able to go ahead and research for yourself. Some students don't understand this new and novel way of teaching, because they think it is the easier job for us, where it is actually more work when I incorporate active learning. However, it is for the good of the student. When you search for the information, it sticks with you more than when I feed it to you with a spoon.



Ask a Professor

DR.MAY ALSAHEB

If you go back in time, what are some of the things you wish you had done as a student?

I was very much focused on my academic level. And I was very much anxious and keen to not drop my performance level. Maintaining academic excellence if you would like to name it. However, I missed that social engagement. So, If I would go back in time I would be more social.

What is your favorite part of your job?

There are a lot of factors to be fair:

A- it's student satisfaction. It's unmeasurable. I will say their happiness when they finish the course. Their academic development, their engagement and their change. They are one thing when they started the course, and the development of those students become, absolutely amazing.

B- Another thing that I enjoy being a professor is the the self-development. I like teaching courses that are kind of a bit away from my specialization in my Ph.D. and master's degree. It does benefit me personally because I feel that I am learning with my students.

Could you share with us any experience that you had and would consider as life-changing?

It is definitely studying abroad. May before studying abroad is way different than May, who have finished studying abroad. I mean, living the independently, networking with people who don't speak your mother tongue, and experiencing new life-changes all while accomplishing a very, very large project. It's a battle. You battle with your time management, you battle with your self-development, you battle with are you going to do this or not? Are you going to live happily or not? Are you going to live in a comfortable way or not? So, it was sort of a wave. So when you do it alone, it kind of molds you. It structures you, it's like working on a sculpture. Even though the strikes of the knife are very much harsh on the sculpture itself, the result is very beautiful. So definitely it's the Ph.D. journey abroad.





Poets from the Department

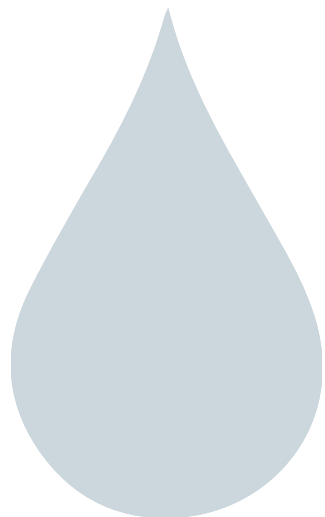
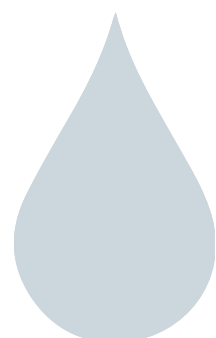
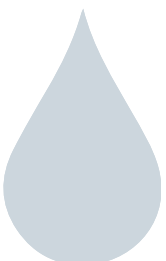
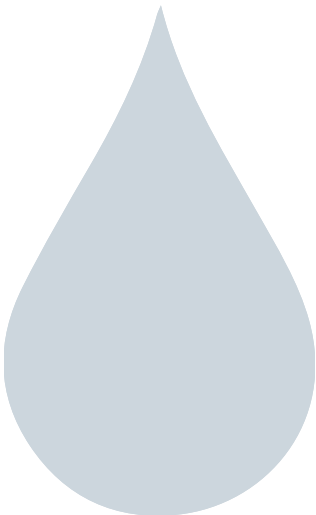
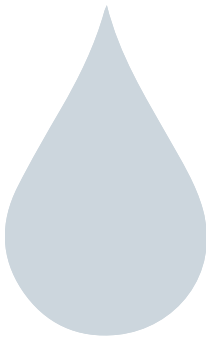
- "Tears" by Lect. Fouzia Zaki Khan
- "It Is Called a Home When You Feel It" by Fatma Albazie
- "Lunar Eclipse" by Shahad Almalki
- "Soul's Conflict" by Shouq Al Mulla
- "Growth" by Anonymous
- "Autumn Girl" by Alanoud Alkhaldi



Tears

Lect. Fouzia Zaki Khan

As pure
as waters of ocean
As innocent
as a new born babe
As precious
as pearls of Yemen
Tears.....
never tell lie
Reveal; the whole truth!



It Is Called a Home When You Feel

It

Fatma Albazie

A house into a home
Is there such a thing as home?
Will there really be a home?
Is it where you live?

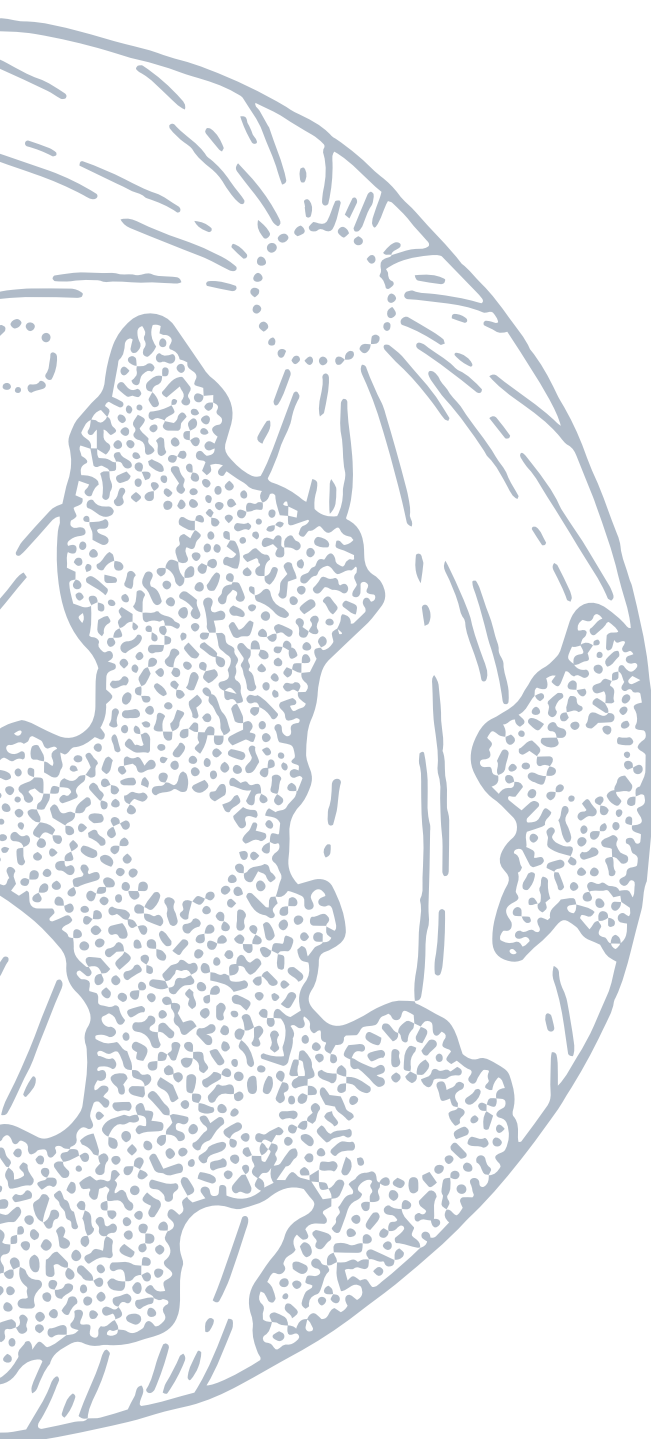
Is it the one you fall in love in?
Or is it a time with the folks?
Or can we say it's just where to sleep and eat?
Or is it somewhere you're just stuck

Oh, a home it's a space
Oh, a home not a warm sheet
Please don't seek to belong.
It is called a home, when you feel it .
Smile.



Lunar Eclipse

Shahad Almalki



Delicate spinning and elegant steps
moving high and low molding the air
The whole universe falls under its spell
eager to watch, the moon is out of its shell.

It sparkles in the night and reaches your eyes
magical gracefulness captivates your mind
charming beauty, even the angels are envious
overshadowing the brightest star in Cepheus.

You see nothing else but the snowy white
the magical features and the calming nature
it has you standing still never lifting your stare
hypnotized by the scenery you're not even aware.

The swift movements show the allure of it
So ethereal that the stars bow in admiration
A heavenly sight we can't believe its existence
We're just walking to a cage with no resistance.

Dancing and glowing for the whole world to see
Mesmerizing every consciousness around
Fingertips point at you as if they were darts
then you receive a shiver that heals your heart.

With a sweet voice that purifies your soul
and a seductive look luring you to a dream
It erases all of the pain across your chest
and does the same for all, taking it as a quest.

The contrast of its crystal glowing aureole
and the growing sorrow in its hooded black eyes
sending you to another level of a spiritual world
where all of your bleeding wounds are blurred.

Until it reaches the end, and breaks
Falling softly, while its veins turn to ink
And with a small smile on its rosy lips
It closes its eyes, causing the lunar eclipse.



Soul's Conflict

SHOUQAL MULLA

A battle inside me
A battle that stole me
A battle that changed me
A battle that made me a new me.
I'm still the same person but with less patience.
You know what changed me?
The people who surround me
The people who did not appreciate me.
I gave them my heart
They gave me their shots.
I lost everything that belongs to me
Because as free they sold me.
A hard lesson I was taught
Do not listen to your heart
Stick to your brain's thought
Because, you have no other choice.
If you choose your kind heart!
So, say goodbye to your lost pride.
I'm a broken heart that still beats
Oh, I meant dead indeed!
So, how can I be complete
If my heart is like the leaf?
That shakes even when it breathes.
I have to leave... I have to leave...
Until the battle ends with peace

Growth

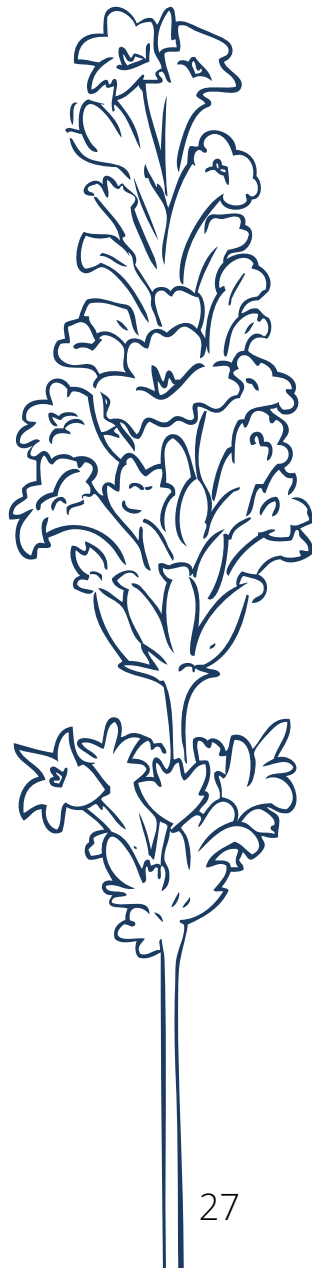
Anonymous

I matured through every experience
The only thing I gained is mentality
difference

My soul flew in magical dimensions
My heart broken in abandoned directions
A newborn soul behind every
disappointment

A heart of steel behind every broken heart
A year educated trust, and a year educated
belief

The beginning of my twenties formulated me
I matured through the my foolishness
No trust is given no more
No belief is driven no more



AUTUMN GIRL

ALANOUD MANA ALKHALDI

THAT GIRL WHO READ EYES
SHE'S WAITING FOR THE
SUNRISE,
PASSES HER HANDS
UNCONSCIOUSLY ON THE RICE
SHE MELTS SLOWLY AS A PIECE
OF ICE
SHE'S AFRAID TO WILT IN A
TRICE.





Photo by: Njood Food

Njood Food

CHEF | FOOD BLOGGER

NJOOD IS A GRADUATE FROM OUR
DEPARTMENT. SHE CURRENTLY
FOLLOWS HER PASSION FOR
COOKING AND HAS MADE A NAME
FOR HERSELF IN THE DIGITAL FOOD
COMMUNITY.

COOK YOUR WAY TO SUCCESS

AN INTERVIEW WITH NJOOD FOOD
BY LINA JAMAL ALGAHTANI

You are an English major graduate, what role did this play in your journey that led you to where you are now?

The English major had a great impact on my career and my life. I was an English teacher for 3 years and that was my childhood dream. Then, I decided to achieve my passion to be a recipe developer and food blogger. Having an excellent background in English language helped me to read and learn more about cooking from English resources.

Where do you get the inspiration for your recipes from?

I get them from books, restaurants, and cooking channels. Basically, from everywhere related to food.

Do you experience creative blocks? And if so, how do you get over them? What keeps you going?

Yes, I faced that a lot. I usually like to take a break until I feel inspired again.

I don't like to push myself; I just indulge my mind and soul with things I like to do to increase my positive thinking.

Have you always loved cooking? And who supported you and encouraged you to start?

I discovered my passion for cooking when I was 12 years old, but I didn't take it seriously until I graduated from college. My family was the biggest supporter for me to continue this passion as a career.

Who inspired you to start cooking?

My mom! She was my first inspiration and I have always wanted to be like her.

Can you describe your years as a student in three words?

They were challenging, amazing, and unforgettable.

Do you think you'll ever publish your own cookbook? If so, will it be in English or Arabic?

It is one of my goals that I'm working on, and it will be in both languages, English and Arabic.

When picking a recipe, do you add your own touch to it?

Of course! That is my favorite part when I play with ingredients and add a little twist that takes the recipe to the next level.

What advice do you give students who want to make a career out of their hobbies?

If you can make money from your hobby go ahead and never think about it, because you will love working every single day without complaining. At least this is what I feel. I used to complain about my previous job, but now the rules changed and I'm the boss.

Do you ever think about developing your own platform? For example, giving cooking classes? Maybe moving to a different social media platform such as YouTube or even opening your own restaurant?

This idea is under discussion right now.

Cooking classes is the main thing that I want to focus on in the future.

Is this what you imagined your life would be like? Are you living your childhood dream?

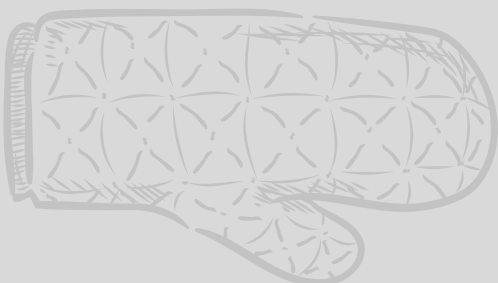
I already lived my childhood dream which is teaching English and it was quite an amazing experience in my life. But my passion changed over years so I decided to follow it and I never regretted taking that step. The journey of self-discovery is more important than you realize.

Nowadays, there's been a huge thirst for Saudis, especially females, to live and work for a certain dream and build a career out of that dream. What advice do you give them? I imagine it's not easy at first and it takes time and patience.

I spent my life thinking that opportunities are supposed to fall into your lap magically, but by pushing yourself and being open to taking risks, you will discover opportunities you wouldn't otherwise have been aware of. Also, developing confidence in yourself and the work you do is an important step to achieving career progression.



@Njoodfood



SELECTED STUDENTS' TRANSLATIONS



"WITHOUT TRANSLATION, WE
WOULD BE LIVING IN PROVINCES
BORDERING ON SILENCE."

-GEORGE STEINER

Do not get lost in translation.

THE WISHES FOR THE CLOTHS OF HEAVEN

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

أُمْنِيَّات مَعْدَم

TRANSLATED BY MANZURA MOHAMMAD

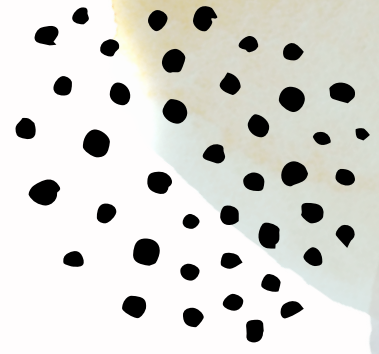
Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths,
Enwrought with golden and silver light,
The blue and the dim and the dark cloths
Of night and light and the half-light,

I would spread the cloths under your feet:
But I, being poor, have only my dreams;
I have spread my dreams under your feet;
Tread softly because you tread on my
dreams.

ألا ليت لي من نسيج الجنان كساءً
بها من العسجد والصريف سناءً
نسائج مزرقة ومعتمة وسوداء
لها نور الضحى وقتم الدجى طلاءً
لبسطتها تحتك في موضع الثرى
غير أنني معدم وما لي سوى المنى
قد جعلت أحلامي تحتك مُذرى
فرفقاً وأنتِ تطئين عليها الخطى

وقال لابنته:

لا تقولين لي إنك بخير دائماً، كوني صادقة ولو
لمرةٍ واحده وأخبريني من سرق الضحكة من
على شفطيك الجميلتين؟ من اطفأ بك شغف
الحياة؟ من جعلك تنامين طويلاً؟ من جعلك
منطويةً ومنعزلة؟ من جعلك رمادية إلى هذا
الحد؟ أتظنني لم لاحظ ذلك؟ أخبريني يا إبنتي
من الذي قتلك وأنتي حية؟



And he told his daughter:

Don't tell me you're fine every time,
be truthful, at least for once, and tell
me who stole laughter from your
beautiful lips? Who destroyed your
passion for life? Who made you sleep
for so long? Who made you reclusive?
Who made you so pale and lifeless?
Did you ever think I never noticed?
Tell me, my daughter, who killed
you, when your soul was pulsing with
life?

Translated by Ayisha Thasnim Mohiudeen

**Original Arabic text by anonymous author*



LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

*We Interviewed graduates from the Department of English
and asked them about life after graduation.*

Interview by Lina Jamal Algahtani

- LIFE AFTER GRDUATION -

What is something you learned during your years as a student?

During those four years, I've learned a lot about myself. I realized that I'm devoted to my work. When I'm given a task to perform, I do it with devotion and passion. The English language has always been a source of passion for me. That's why I put all the effort into my work because I love what I do. My passion for English has helped in my job as an English teacher. During my classes, I always try to enrich my students with the knowledge I've obtained during those four years of education.

How is life as an English major graduate?

The best thing about being an English graduate is that most jobs require someone fluent in English. A lot of people worry about doing interviews in English, but it's something graduates from the Department should not worry about.

When I graduated, life was blurry to me. I didn't know what my next move is. Especially with the pandemic, the future didn't seem optimistic. I was lucky to get a job as an English teacher. When I got the job, I was over the moon because I've always wanted to pursue a career in the educational field.

"WHEN I GRADUATED,
LIFE WAS BLURRY TO
ME. I DIDN'T KNOW
WHAT MY NEXT
MOVE IS"

What advice would you give current English major students?

My advice to them is to do the best they can during college. I know at some point you might feel like giving up but remember that all of this is temporary. One day all of this will be memories. Remember that you are doing this for yourself; for you to live a happy and stable life. You will taste the fruit of your hard labor once you graduate and it will be worth it.



-Latifa Al abdulwahab

- LIFE AFTER GRADUATION -

What is something you learned during your years as a student?

After spending three years pacing back and forth with my friend Maha in the corridors of the English language department, I learned that these corridors offered me plenty of invaluable life lessons; one of them is how to be responsible for my learning since I have been in situations where the answers didn't always come easily.

How is life as an English major graduate?

It has been a roller coaster since our major has broad areas to search through, which gave me the chance to try a wide variety of job opportunities that require English.

Adjust your schedule around when YOU are the most productive and creative. While most people would advise you to do your work first thing after class, in the end, you know what is best for you.

"I LEARNED THAT
THESE CORRIDORS
OFFERED ME PLENTY
OF INVALUABLE LIFE
LESSONS"

What advice would you give current English major students?

Even if you feel like you are most productive the hour before your assignment is due, embrace it. You don't need to listen to others when they tell you to be more organized or to plan better.



- Albatool Alharbi.

- LIFE AFTER GRDUATION -

What is something you learned during your years as a student?

Majoring in English Language did not only help me professionally and academically, but it also opened me up to various gates in life. I found myself more open, confident, social, curious and expressive. It also helped me connect with many people from different cultures which enriched my interpersonal skills as well as encouraged my drive for research and knowledge; which is now crucial in many career paths.

How is life as an English major graduate?

As someone who graduated during the Covid-19 pandemic, life after graduation was quite hard. I think that goes for all of class of 2020. It was definitely not how any of us expected our four-year academic journey to end. During the past six months post-graduation, I have sat and reflected on my education and I am quite content with the path that I chose. My degree helped me obtain a job as an English teacher where I was allowed to continue this educational journey, as well as share my knowledge with our future generations.

"WORK HARD ON YOUR GRADES BUT ALSO DEVELOP YOUR SOCIAL SKILLS"

What advice would you give current English major students?

I have many but the crucial one in my opinion is: work hard on your grades but also develop your social skills. The department offers a large number of extracurricular activities and they are amazing opportunities for you to gain the experience through volunteer work, as well as to give back to your department and your community. Another crucial advice is to not limit yourself because you are more than capable to achieve what you set your mind to, challenge yourself and exit your comfort zone. Focus on seeking knowledge. Remain curious, expressive, confident and present.



- Maha Alhelal

- LIFE AFTER GRDUATION -

What is something you learned during your years as a student?

Critical learning and thinking. It helped me in solving problems or any obstacles.
Also, it allowed me to look and analyze everything in different ways, with depth, instead of judging based on appearance.

How is life as an English major graduate?

Easier because nowadays with the 2030 vision for technology, development, and everything else is in English. Moreover, I became more open to cultural differences, religions, opinions ... etc.

"I BECAME MORE
OPEN TO CULTURAL
DIFFERENCES,
RELIGIONS, OPINONS,
ETC..."



What advice would you give current English major students?

Enjoy enjoy enjoy! Because if you love it, it will be easier.

- Sarah Fahad

- LIFE AFTER GRDUATION -

What is something you learned during your years as a student?

Something I learnt from my major was critical thinking and analysis which helped in so many ways in life. Moreover, my writing got better in college and I learned a lot of new vocabulary that made writing an easy process for me. Also, speaking courses such as “Arts of speech” helped me to acquire presentation and communication skills. Besides, studying different theories and reading other people’s philosophies and points of view helped me to be more open to other opinions and accept different ideas.

"MEET DIFFERENT
PEOPLE, BE OPEN TO
OTHER PERSPECTIVES
AND DEVELOP LIFE
SKILLS."

What advice would you give current English major students?

would tell them to enjoy their courses as much as they can because they are really interesting and they are “eye openers”. I would tell them to practice their language more often and use the skills they learn in college in real life like critical thinking. Also, I believe that experimenting different things and joining clubs especially related to the English department really helps to practice the language, meet different people, be open to other perspectives and develop life skills.

How is life as an English major graduate?

As an English major graduate, I believe that there are a lot of job opportunities. Whether you’re applying for companies, schools or starting your own project, our department gives us an advantage to apply to various work fields if we developed and sharpened the skills we learned in our major.



- Anonymous

Tips for Success



We asked our students to provide tips for success to new English majors who recently joined the Department of English.

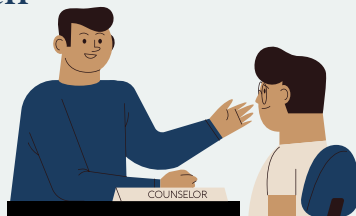
What to Do?



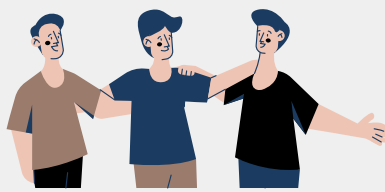
- Follow the English major academic plan.



- Ask for help when needed.



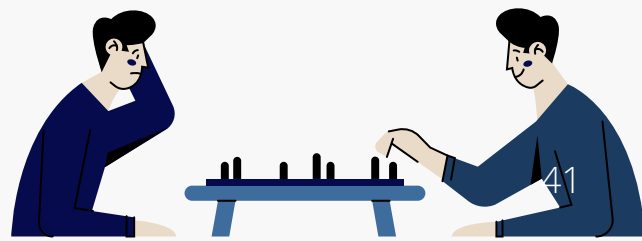
- Surround yourself with positive and hardworking people.



- Stay on top of your schoolwork and other activities.



- Be active and join clubs.



WHAT TO AVOID?

1 Cramming for Exams

Do not study the day before the exam.

2 Procrastination

Do not procrastinate your schoolwork.

3 Wasting Time

Do not give up to the distractions of your phone or tablet.

4 Stressing Out

Take care of your mental health.

When you are studying, it helps to keep in mind your reasons for doing all this hard work, like a goal or career towards which you are working. It also helps to have something in your study space to remind you of your goals.

THANK
YOU



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And stay tuned for our next
issue!